

Year in review

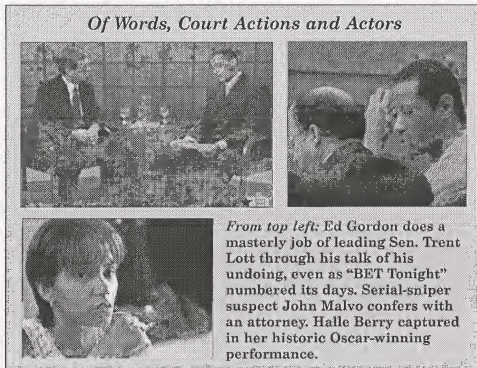
Terror, triumph punctuate 2002

By Cheryl Devall

If 2001 was terrifying, 2002 has been terrifyingly fast. Its events hurtled by more rapidly than those images of polka dancers, picket fences and plaid pants in "Undercover Brother's" white-culture-immersion machine.

The United States is struggling to regain equilibrium following the terror attacks of September 2001. Key economic sectors "airlines, manufacturing and media companies" are still out of whack. Blue collars and white collars who aren't among the long-term unemployed anxiously boost their productivity while wondering "will my job disappear next?" Those who believed their stock portfolios would cover college costs or cushion the retirement years witnessed another kind of disappearing act as their value diminished amid greed-driven corporate scandals and one bear of a market.

Black voters, disillusioned that neither major party bothered to acknowledge them, marshaled minimal enthusiasm for mid-term elections that gave Republicans control of Congress and the White House. Between renewed legal and philosophical assaults on racial considerations in hiring and university admissions, and crackdowns on civil liberties and



Of Words, Court Actions and Actors

From top left: Ed Gordon does a masterly job of leading Sen. Trent Lott through his talk of his undoing, even as "BET Tonight" numbered its days. Serial-sniper suspect John Malvo confers with an attorney. Halle Berry captured in her historic Oscar-winning performance.

immigrants' rights in the name of homeland security, a lot of folks are glancing fitfully over their shoulders.

Ominous talk about biological or chemical warfare and the specter of the next terrorist attack pervades the nightly news and daily conversations. And then there's the prospect of Gulf War II.

Adding to the aforementioned jitters, violent crime struck unnervingly close to home whether "home" is the Washington, D.C., area or the place in one's consciousness that sags with despair whenever the suspect is described as black, male and of

medium height and build. In the capital suburbs, October was scarier than usual as apparently random sniper attacks killed 10 people and wounded 3 others. (Among those slain while filling up at a gas station was Kenneth Bridges, founder of the MATAH Network, an Amway-like distribution company run by and for African-Americans.) Once the law caught up with black suspects John Allen Muhammad and teenager John Lee Malvo, jurisdictions jockeyed for the first crack at trying, convicting and executing the two.

BAN People

Lise Chandler White, '80, media and communications coordinator for the City of Virginia Beach, Va., was appointed to the state Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Advisory Council by Gov. Mark Warner.

Malcolm Venable, '01, is free-lancing in New York, N.Y. and working on a screenplay with a film producer. Additionally he was chosen as a fellow with the Independent Press Association for the George Washington Williams Fellowship. The first article for the group looks at tensions between gays and the black church.

Carline Watson, '95, is producer/director of the Washington, D.C.-based Tavis Smiley Show on NPR. Send e-mail to cwatson@npr.org.

Malissa Wilson, '96, is an attorney at Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens, & Cannada, PLLC in Jackson, Miss. Her areas of practice include media law, commercial litigation, administrative law, director and officer liability, government litigation, professional liability and telecommunications. Send e-mail to wilson.malissa@butlersnow.com.

J-School Briefs

Task force's work goes on

Columbia University President Lee Bollinger's task force has meetings scheduled for January and February. Bollinger is finding the task force deliberations helpful and informative, reports Andrew W. Cooper of the alumni office.

Much discussion has centered on the state of the profession and whether journalism education – across the country – has kept up with the rapid pace of industry changes over the past few years.

Clearly they think it has not. One of their goals is to map out a vision of where the J-School should be in the next 10 years: courses, composition of faculty, and types of degrees.

Students respond to survey

Ninety-two members of the current Columbia J-School class

participated in a survey conducted by the Society of Professional Journalists and overwhelmingly voiced their continued support for a curriculum that focuses on "teaching the nuts and bolts of reporting and writing."

Seeking Michelle Clark Fellows

Were you a Michelle Clark Fellow in the late 1960s or early 1970s?

Fred Friendly created a minority fellowship program for broadcast journalists that was a landmark effort by the J-School to create more diversity in the profession.

Thanks to Ruth Friendly, who donated the photographs, now there is an online photo gallery that captures the essence of a great program:

http://www.jm.columbia.edu/alumni/history/galleries/1968-1969_gallery.asp

FACULTY POSITION

**Temple University
Department of Journalism,
Public Relations and
Advertising**

Director, Center for Excellence in Urban Journalism:

A senior, renewable faculty position.

Oversee the development of Center of Excellence in Urban Journalism and the Multimedia Urban Reporting Lab (MURL), a converged newsroom in which advanced students produce news stories in a variety of formats about under-served Philadelphia neighborhoods.

Director will also teach courses in urban reporting and the integrated newsroom. Strong professional background.

Proven track record in grants and fundraising.

Master's degree preferred.

Applicants should submit:

- (1) a cover letter indicating interest in the position and relevant professional background, including any experience with diversity issues;
- (2) a resume;
- (3) a statement of teaching interests/philosophy; and
- (4) the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of at least three references.

Mail application materials to Carolyn Kitch, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Journalism, Public Relations and Advertising, Temple University, 2020 N. 13th St., Philadelphia, PA 19122.

All applications must be postmarked by Monday, January 6, 2003.

*Temple University is an
Affirmative Action/Equal
Opportunity Institution.*

Updated Budget Report

Balance before July 2002 issue \$ 106

Revenues (June to December 2002)	
Subscriptions	764
Subtotal	870

Expenses (July to December 2002)	
Printing and postage	832

Balance before Jan. 2003 issue \$ 38

LOTS OF CHANGE: A postage increase to 37 cents from 34 cents on June 30 then in November, our expansion to multimedia, a traditional hard copy and online version of the newsletter. We will keep up our diligence in managing costs and reminding readers to renew or start subscribing. To the dozens who have responded, thank you.

Our newsletter marches on, every month since July 1980.

Help us grow and give you more!

— Wayne J. Dawkins, '80

Black Alumni Network Newsletter

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Published monthly by
Columbia University
Journalism Alumni
(ISSN 1040-7758)

E-mail: wdawk69643@aol.com

Web address:

[http://www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/
services/ban/index.asp](http://www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/services/ban/index.asp)

Subscription Rates:

\$20 for one year; \$38 for two years

Inquire about our ad rates

Jobline

Features Editor

The Desert Sun, a growing 52,000-circulation Gannett newspaper in Palm Springs, Calif. seeks a features editor to continue the award-winning traditions of our 12 weekly features sections. We're looking for an editor who can help writers develop and execute narrative story telling as well as edit information to be presented in innovative ways to attract younger readers.

The successful candidate will work well in a team environment, be excited about the cultural diversity of the community and help us tell great stories about the unique people and places in the desert. The area offers the amenities of an international vacation mecca, but is also an affordable destination for young families.

Contact Managing Editor Julie Shirley at julie.shirley@thedesertsun.com or mail resume and work samples to 750 N. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs, CA 92262.

Seminars and Fellowships

NABEF Fellowships

The National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation will award fellowships for two management seminars to be held in 2003. Four fellowships will be offered to the Management Development Seminar for Television Executives at Northwestern University, and four more are available for the Executive Development Program for Radio Broadcasters at Georgetown University.

The fellowships cover the seminar registration fee in addition to providing a stipend to help with hotel and meals. The deadline for

applications is April 1.
www.nabef.org/fellowsh.htm

Batten Media Fellowships

The Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia is seeking candidates for the Batten Media Fellowships.

The fellowships are for media professionals seeking an MBA degree, and they cover tuition, fees and a partial stipend for the full-time, two-year MBA program. Candidates must be full-time employees of the news media.

www.darden.virginia.edu.

Out of My Mind

By Elmer Smith

"Most columnists, after two or three years of hacking, should be taken for a walk and pushed off of a pier.

"Only the rare ones like Elmer Smith figure out the trick of staying fresh and relevant. Elmer writes half with his head and half with his heart. He comforts and provokes. Most importantly, he gets off his rump and reports, pounding pavement and rattling cages in the name of social justice.

"In the end, Elmer Smith's great gift as a columnist is his humanity."

— Steve Lopez

Los Angeles Times columnist

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from August Press
www.booksxyz.com
or (800) 268-4338

2002/*Continued from page 1***Glimmers of justice**

The long shadow the alleged snipers cast diverted attention from daily, deadly violence elsewhere – including more than 600 homicides that propelled Los Angeles toward that least-wanted designation, “murder capital of the nation.” In New York, one homicide unsolved as of this writing, the shooting death of pioneering Run DMC deejay Jam Master Jay, continues to haunt lovers of cleverly inventive rhymes and irresistible beats. 2002 was not without glimmers of justice. Almost 40 years after the fact, a Birmingham jury convicted an ex-Klansman in the 1963 bombing deaths of four black girls in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. The restless mother of lynching victim Emmett Till, aided by researchers and documentarians, is uncovering new evidence in her son’s 1955 case that may implicate accomplices to the two white men, now dead, acquitted in connection with the murder.

Civil rights-era icons including Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and Jesse Jackson Sr. became targets for good-natured ribbing in

“Barbershop,” an unexpected crossover hit. With so much else to protest about, Jackson’s and Al Sharpton’s objections to the movie sounded way off-key.

Speaking of crossover successes, this year brought long-overdue Oscar recognition to African-American actors. Halle Berry from “Monster’s Ball” marked her triumphant moment with joyous tears. From the same stage, Denzel Washington from “Training Day” saluted his predecessor, Sidney Poitier, who beamed in the balcony.

Whether next year’s news is grim or good, there’s less likelihood people will see it on Black Entertainment Television. As the year turned, BET announced it’s canceling two of its three regular news programs, “Lead Story” and “BET Tonight” with Ed Gordon. The Viacom subsidiary is eliminating about 40 jobs along with some of the few regular television news outlets for African-American journalists, newsmakers and opinion shapers.

Higher profiles

Cost-cutting and consolidation continue at many media outlets. Executive-level denials have yet to kill rumors that CNN and ABC will merge their news divisions. AOL

has become an albatross around the neck of Time Warner, the company it hooked up with in a blaze of millennial optimism. News organizations maintained hiring freezes and some, including Dow Jones, Reuters and CNN cut staff in response to a chilly advertising climate. Blaming declines in underwriting, several public broadcasting stations as well as Minnesota Public Radio and National Public Radio fired employees this year.

At the same time, African-Americans achieved a higher profile than ever at NPR. In its first year, broadcast personality Tavis Smiley’s weekday hour doubled its station carriage with a mix of interviews and features drawing from a multi-cultural roster of guests. And in December, veteran newspaper and ABC-TV journalist Michele Norris went on the air as the first African-American co-host of NPR’s flagship program “All Things Considered.”

For her, and for all of us, here’s a wish for an abundance of good news to share in 2003.

The writer is a 1982 Columbia Journalism graduate and an editor for public radio’s “Marketplace” in Los Angeles.

Black Alumni Network

Newsletter

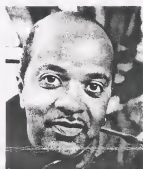
www.jrn.columbia.edu

Volume 23, Number 2
FEBRUARY 2003

'Miracle' makeover New looks for WW II novel

We caught up with James McBride, '80, at a book signing at Prince Books in Norfolk, Va. in January, the month his first novel, "Miracle at St. Anna" was released as a paperback (Riverhead Books, \$14).

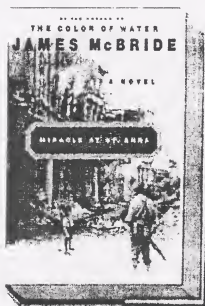
"Miracle" in hardcover sold 50,000 books last year, but that respectable showing was small compared to the two million hard and paperback copies of McBride's 1996 biography, "The Color of Water."



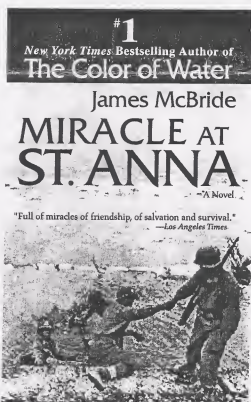
James McBride

McBride believes a cover makeover will attract more customers to "Miracle." The paperback comes in two versions, one that prominently features the Italian boy in the story and another cover that shows four African-American GIs, also central characters in the book set during World War II.

McBride told a standing room crowd at the bookstore that three out of four "Color of Water" readers were "young women ages 20 to 80," and that target market should be drawn to the "Miracle" makeover.



Cover change: The former look of "Miracle at St. Anna" above and below one of the new covers.



In defense of BET news

**Record of excellence,
says 78 alumna**

While newsman Ed Gordon was praised for professionalism during his December interview with U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., cable channel Black Entertainment Television was criticized for gutting its news programs.

Potshots from online National Association of Black Journalists members last month were too much for former BET producer **Doxie McCoy, '78:**

"Forgive me for being sensitive, but as we continue to read or write about the successes and failures of BET's news and public affairs department, you should know that 'BET Tonight With Tavis Smiley' was also 'award winning,' even though BET management would have you believe that 'Teen Summit' won all the glory.

"Perhaps few people know the following because it was like pulling teeth to get them to spread the message about the following, let alone promote the show to try to boost ratings.

"But in fact, in the five years it was on the air, 'BET Tonight With Tavis Smiley' was the recipient of at least two NABJ awards that I can recall and the recipient of NAACP Image Awards for 1999, 2000 and 2001 for 'Best News, Talk or Information Series,' in addition to a second 2001 award for a special town hall meeting on police brutality broadcast live from New York.

"However, I recognize the point to be made about life after BET and what the future might hold for Ed Gordon."

McCoy is communications director for U.S. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-District of Columbia.

NABJ budget

NABJ adopted a \$1.7 million fiscal year budget at its winter board meeting. To read the story, visit www.nabj.org/boardmtg011703.html

Youth conference at Columbia

Columbia University's Black Students Organization's 8th Annual Youth Leadership conference is 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8.

Professionals from all industries are invited to a "mocktail" party, with high school students, giving the students an opportunity to talk with professionals and gain perspective about their

own career options.

There will also be a brief panel discussion at the end of the conference featuring some of the professional attendees.

Contact Xenia Murray, Columbia University, c/o '03 BSO Community Relations chair, Youth Leadership Conference chair
e-mail: xum1@columbia.edu
or call (212) 853-4014.

People

Olga Joseph, '92, writes: "Now that the holiday rush has passed, I need your help with an exciting new project: Did you ever wonder, 'Who decides what meal to serve on my flight from Phoenix to New York?' Or, 'What happens if an airline never finds my lost luggage?' Or, 'How will I be accommodated if my connecting flight cancels?' Or, 'Who decides where each plane parks at the terminal?'"

"Now's your chance to get answers to all of these questions – and more. My brother and I are putting our airline experience to good use by writing a book that demystifies the airlines' 'secrets.'"

"Believe it or not, there is a rhyme and a reason for every policy and procedure at your airport or airline. From the reservation process to baggage claim, our innovative travel book will dispel many of the myths of modern air travel and give people the inside information they need to have the most trouble-free flying experience possible – especially in these times of heightened security and additional passenger regulations."

"We need your help. When you have a moment, please send me your airline-related question. The more questions you have, the better. Your questions will be used to plan the contents of our book."

"Don't be shy, tell your friends; they more than likely have questions too."

Send e-mail to

omjoseph@hotmail.com

Meal question answer:

Airline meals are mass-produced in commercial kitchens long before you arrive at the airport. With nearly 2 million fliers per day in the U.S., time is precious.

Cuisine selection depends on availability, affordability and durability for transport. In addition, time, space and equipment are limited on board. Can you imagine the logistical nightmare of serving 200 steaks cooked to order on a 60-minute flight from Los Angeles to San Francisco?

Tania Padgett, '95, of *Newsday* wrote about fast growing and moving JetBlue Airways Corp. The company recently tripled the size of its Queens, N.Y. headquarters and moved for the fourth time in four years.

JetBlue, wrote Padgett, known for serving blue corn chips and having leather seats and satellite tv, is expanding at a time when the airline industry continues to reel from the effects of Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a sluggish economy and reduced demand by business travelers.

Jobline

The *Daily Press* in Hampton Roads, Va. (95,000 daily circulation, 115,000 Sunday) is looking for a **suburban editor**. The newspaper also seeks several experienced **reporters**. Contact Bob Evans, managing editor, *Daily Press*, 7505 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, VA 23607. www.dailypress.com.

Friday, March 7 is the **deadline** for Kaiser Family

Black Alumni Network

Newsletter (757) 591-2371

Wayne J. Dawkins, **editor**
Betty Winston Baye, Angela Chatman, Deborah Creighton, Cheryl Devall, Keith Rushing, **E.R. Shipp, contributing editors**

Published monthly by Columbia University Journalism Alumni (ISSN 1040-7758)
e-mail: wdawk69643@aol.com

Foundation Media Fellowships in Health.

For anyone interested taking a closer look at a health-related issue, this is a fellowship to consider. The foundation awards six fellowships each year to print or broadcast journalists.

For more information visit www.kff.org/docs/fellowships/ihf2000.html

Close the gap

Alumni are raising money to establish "gap" funding for a student that has loans, grants, scholarships and has saved for school, but still needs help.

We are in the third year of raising \$25,000 for an endowed Black Alumni (Network) scholarship to assist students.

As of January, \$4,425 was contributed.

Alumni are urged to give and have their companies – where available – match their gifts.

Contact Erin McCarthy (em480@columbia.edu).

Michelle Clark Fellows

Were you a Michelle Clark Fellow in the late 1960s or early 1970s? Fred Friendly created a minority fellowship program for broadcast journalists that was a landmark effort by the J-School to create more diversity in the profession. Thanks to Ruth Friendly, who donated the photographs, there is now an online photo gallery that captures the essence of a great program: http://www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/history/galleries/1968-1969_gallery.asp

THANK YOU, December and January new and renewing subscribers from New York, N.Y. [3]; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Los Angeles; Central N.J.; Houston; Oakland; Quincy, Mass.; Washington; D.C.; Queens, N.Y.; Silver Spring, Md.

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Newsletter

108 Terrell Road, Box 6693
Newport News, VA 23606

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P.O. BOX 6693

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Black Alumni Network

Newsletter

www.jrn.columbia.edu

Volume 23, Number 4
APRIL 2003

Book analyzes Africa coverage

Milton Allimadi, '92, in February published a book that he says digs deep into the history of negative, racist media representations of Africans that persist in contemporary America.

In "The Hearts of Darkness: How White Writers Created the Racist Image of Africa," (Black Star Books, \$12) Allimadi takes readers on a journey of discovery. Allimadi provides insight into the process behind the tribalization of Africa and African peoples.

The book includes a historical analysis of *The New York Times*, *Time* magazine, *Newsweek*, *National Geographic* and *The New Yorker*.

"Hearts of Darkness" contains exclusive letters from *The New York Times*' archives exposing the racism of some editors and reporters involved in that newspaper's early African coverage, including two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, the late Homer Bigart.

Allimadi says he explains how news organizations were often accomplices and apologists for the negative stereotypes.

The book examines the roles of European travelers who explored Africa between the 18th and 19th centuries.

Allimadi suggests that the group served as the original media responsible for disseminating negative images of Africa around the world through their journals.

Nearly 100 guests appeared for the book launch at Harlem's Spoonbread Soulfood Restaurant in February.

To order the book call (212) 481-7745 or visit: www.greatestscoops.com and www.blackstarnews.com.

Spring Alumni Meeting

Columbia University Journalism Alumni
Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26

- Alumni Awards program and meeting Friday
 - Columbia University President Lee Bollinger is to meet with journalism alumni Saturday.
 - Alumni Book Fair both days
 - Reunions for classes of '98, '93, '88, '83, '78 etc.
- For information, visit www.jrn.columbia.edu

People

Lynne Duke, '85, New York correspondent for *The Washington Post*, discussed her Africa book, "Mandela, Mobutu and Me," (Random House) on the Feb. 18 PBS "The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer."

Donnette Dunbar, '88, a reporter for *The Financial Times* in New York, gave us a shout and noted **Lois Barrett, '01**, works part-time at the FT and part-time at *US Weekly*.

Kristina Nwazota, '00, moves on to assistant editor at the Online NewsHour in Washington, D.C., from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, where she was writing for its environmental health Web site on PCB contamination of the Hudson River.

Alelia Bundles, '76, is coordinating the NABJ "Authors Showcase 2003" this August in Dallas. www.nabj.org

BAN endowment

A recent \$10,000 gift left us only \$10,575 short of establishing an endowed scholarship fund. Alumni are urged to give and have their companies — where available — match their gifts. Contact Erin McCarthy (em480@columbia.edu).

Anti-war activist

Writer takes to streets
and cyberspace

Jill Nelson, '80, says it's OK to call her an author and anti-war activist.

For weeks she has been sending

ART

mass e-mail messages urging people to prevent a war in Iraq. On Saturday, March 22, she went to the anti-war demonstration in New York City.

"Massive," said Nelson, "a solid street of people from Washington Square Park to 42nd Street. The cops were freaking and ready to kick ass."

Continued on back page

NABJ elections

Members interested in seeking a position on the National Association of Black Journalists Board of Directors should submit a letter of intent to the NABJ office by Friday, May 2.

The letter of intent should state your name and the position you seek. Address the letter to Condance

Pressley, NABJ, 8701-A Adelphi Road, Adelphi, MD 20783-1716, or fax it to (301) 445-7101. Mailed letters must be postmarked by Friday, May 2. Incumbents seeking a position on the board must also submit a letter of intent.

Candidates must be a full, associate or student member in good standing with NABJ. Full members can seek the offices of president, vice president/print, vice president/broadcast, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian or regional director. Associate members can seek the office of associate member representative. Student members can seek the office of student representative. Candidates may seek only one office per election.

NABJ will elect its new board of directors during the 28th Annual Convention and Career Fair in Dallas, Friday, Aug. 8.

Members in good standing who do not attend the convention may mail an absentee ballot.

For up-to-date information about the elections including election schedule, rules and eligibility requirements, visit www.nabj.org/Elex03/index.html

Jobline

World Vision Radio seeks a **senior producer/editor**. This person oversees the "hands-on" production of daily and Saturday programming.

Minimum qualifications:

Seven years experience in journalism, including at least four years of radio production and editing experience. Preference to those with demonstrated strong editorial judgment, writing ability and organizational skills.

Candidate must be competent at digital editing, plus experienced in piece and program mixes.

Ability to work well with others and a willingness to work within the World Vision value system. Apply to World Vision Domestic Employment Office P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way WA 98063-9716 or www.worldvision.org. The Indianapolis Star has an opening for an **assistant managing editor/business**. The

AME/Business guides a department of two assistant editors, 13 reporters and four copy editors. The newspaper is a 253,000 daily and 380,000 Sunday circulation newspaper located in Indiana's capital city and the largest newspaper in the state. Contact Leisa Richardson, AME/ Administration, The Indianapolis Star (317) 444-6378

leisa.richardson@indystar.com

Activist

Continued

She also said, "On Thursday (March 20), the night after the bombing started, I went to a 5 p.m. demonstration in Times Square. The cops assaulted the crowd with barricades in order to push us back, beat the hands of people trying to hold the barricade off with billy clubs, and grabbed several people, me included.

"An older man fell down and was helped up before he was crushed. The cops grabbed me and almost lifted me off the crowd in an effort to throw me back into the crowd, destroying my umbrella in the process.

"People grabbed me and got me away from them, luckily." Nelson is author of "Volunteer Slavery" and "Straight No Chaser" and she edited "Police Brutality," an anthology. Nelson is scheduled to publish a novel in June.

Send e-mail to SisNoWar@aol.com.

**\$20 year or
\$38 two years**

THANK YOU, March new and renewing subscribers from Washington, D.C. [3], San Francisco, Reston, VA, Rahway, NJ, West Orange, NJ and New York, NY [4].

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www.jrn.columbia.edu

Volume 23, Number 5
MAY 2003

Anchor departs Chicago station

Diann Burns, '81, anchorwoman with WLS-TV Chicago for many years, is no longer with the station.

"It is accurate that she refused to sign a new contract before her current deal ends June 30," said Marc Watts', Burns' husband and agent. "It was Diann's desire to let her contract expire allowing her then to explore other options. WLS, until today, was always considered one of those options."

In a Feb. 27 statement, Burns said, "I'm very saddened by the turn of events and overwhelmingly disappointed that I was not given the opportunity to hug lifelong friends that I have made at Channel 7 in my 18 years and disappointed I didn't get the opportunity to say thank you to the people of Chicago who have made me part of their families.

I have prayed with my husband and our pastor and tonight I'm giving this matter to God and letting it go.

"This is so long to ABC but I'm certain this is not goodbye to Chicago."



Diann Burns

**More PEOPLE,
JOBLINE news
(pages 2-3)**

J-School dean chosen

Nicholas Lemann, correspondent and author

Nicholas Lemann, Washington correspondent for The New Yorker magazine since 2000, will be the next Dean of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, university president Lee C. Bollinger, announced April 15.

"He is a marvelous choice — an extraordinarily intelligent reporter and writer of surpassing skill and insight, who is optimistic about the future of journalism and dedicated to bringing that future to fruition,"



Nicholas Lemann

Interim Dean David A. Klatell said in a statement.

Bollinger said "Nicholas Lemann has had a distinguished career as a journalist and writer for more than 25 years. I have had the opportunity and privilege of working with Nick this past year on the Journalism Task Force that was set up in the fall to look at the future of journalism education.

"In all my years in university life, I have rarely met anyone with more promise and ability in assuming a leadership role of a school."

In an April 18 interview with the Times-Picayune of New Orleans, Lemann's native city, he said he is excited about the "institution-

building" opportunity at Columbia. "They want to essentially reinvent journalism education, to think fundamentally," Lemann said. "It's that chance that is attractive to me about the job."

Lemann is widely respected as a perceptive analyst of the issues of race and inequality, said the J-school statement. His books include the award-winning "The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How it Changed America" (1991), which was adapted by the BBC and the Discovery Channel into a five-part TV series.

Spring Journalism Alumni Meeting, page 2

His book "The Big Test: The Secret History of the American Meritocracy" (1999) and its hour-long adaptation for the PBS series "Frontline" helped spark a reform effort that has led to a major overhaul of the SAT.

Lemann's other writings include numerous articles, reviews and essays that have appeared in The New Republic, The New York Times Magazine and other publications.

Lemann told the Times-Picayune that he will continue writing. He hopes to finish a book on the post-Civil War Reconstruction this summer.

Lemann, who never attended journalism school, said he has tentatively agreed to remain in the dean's post at least five years. His selection is pending approval of the Board of Trustees.

Spring alumni meeting at Columbia

Journalism Alumni Association President Donald "Pete" Johnston, '50, gave this e-mail briefing to members of the alumni association executive committee. The 20-member committee includes Wayne Dawkins, '80, Mira Thomas Lowe, '88, and Frances Hardin, '77.

There were no major glitches, however, the start of the meeting was delayed 20 minutes because we waited for the arrival of students who have been accepted to the school; they were held over by a lecture at the school (students are invited to Columbia at a time to coincide with the meeting so they can get a personal feel for the spirit and accomplishments of the school). The delay allowed late-arriving alumni to take seats, and by the time the meeting started, the room was full.

- The meeting was opened with a welcome by the president.
- Brief remarks by Interim Dean David Klatell about the year. He didn't go into details because of the scheduled Saturday morning Town Hall Meeting.
- Brief remarks by the president about alumni activities during the year, including the selection of **Judith Crist, '45**, for a university Alumni Medal.
- Presentation of the Alumni Awards. A general consensus was that the speeches were the best in many years – aggressive, passionate, significant, on themes such as the Iraq war, U.S. foreign policy, the state of journalism, and the future of the Journalism School.

The meeting was kept to a reasonable length, and ended with the reception. The Rotunda was full.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Saturday morning was rainy, but that didn't keep the crowd away from the Town Hall Meeting in Miller Theater. Columbia

Journalism Alumni Award Winners

- **Sam Brown, '72**, KNOX Radio, Knoxville, Tenn. news anchor and investigative reporter;
- **Beverly Ann Deepe Keever, '58**, Vietnam war correspondent and University of Hawaii journalism professor;
- **Narasimhan Ram, '68**, editor of Frontline, a weekly newsmagazine published in India;
- **Howard Schneider, '67**, managing editor of Newsday (N.Y.)

University President Lee C. Bollinger was the keynote speaker. He didn't say much about his task force statement and the appointment of the new dean, Nick Lemann, except that he expects good things and leadership from Lemann.

Much of the talk was about the task force's impact on his thinking about journalism and journalism education, and Bollinger provided global context for his thinking on the subject. He answered a dozen questions from the audience.

While the president didn't reveal anything new or dramatic, his talk did clarify some of the misunderstandings that had developed among alumni, mainly because of press reports about Bollinger's initial statements last August.

A catered lunch in a big tent in front of the school was the next activity, then a panel discussion, "Is There a Crisis in Journalism?" The four panelists had mixed views.

The Spring Meeting and the Town Hall session were taped, and both events are to be placed on the GSJ Web site.

Jobline

The MBC Network is looking for a coordinating ~~producer/writer~~ for the nightly newscast. This person should have at least 3 years broadcast news experience and be familiar with multiple computer platforms. They will report to the senior producer and supervise tape intake, some edits and assist with writing the newscast. The position is located in Tallahassee, Fla. Respond ASAP to gmorrison@mbcnetwork.com.

Reuters seeks a fast, detail-oriented **journalist** to cover the rapid-fire of the foreign exchange market; report on the ebb and flow of the \$1 trillion per day global currency market; and analyze how macroeconomic factors and market trends affect cross-border capital flows. The successful candidate should be comfortable snapping big moves in dollar, euro and yen, as well as turning out readable trend features. They will also assist with covering G7 policymakers visiting New York and economic stories on the Treasury Desk. Send applications or address questions to: Kim Skinner, manager, Human Resources, Reuters America Inc. 3 Times Square New York, NY 10036

The Associated Press seeks a **news editor** for its Anchorage, Alaska bureau to plan and supervise coverage of wide range of topics, including breaking news, sports, business, politics, features and in-depth projects, for a regional, national and international audience of newspapers, television and radio stations and online sites.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS: Demonstrated excellence as a reporter, writer and editor, with experience writing and editing spot news and enterprise. Must be able to recognize and develop newsworthy stories, work accurately under deadline pressure,

Continued on next page

Jobline/Continued

communicate effectively and motivate staff. Must be able to use computer-based news gathering tools. Must be a creative problem solver with strong organizational skills to make maximum use of limited time and resources. Must have supervisory experience. Should have four years of full-time reporting or editing experience at a daily newspaper, broadcast station or AP bureau.

TO APPLY: E-mail anchorage@apjobs.org.

The Washingtonian Magazine has an opening for an **associate design director** as of May 17. This position is part of an art department made up of a design director, two associate design directors, a director of photography and an assistant photography editor. You get to do layout, design and other things you would expect to do in a magazine art department. Candidates must be familiar with QuarkXPress 4.1 and PhotoShop, though experience with Adobe Illustrator and QPS a plus. Must have print experience, preferably magazine experience. Must be a good team player and be able to work with editors and writers. This is an all-Mac office. Contact Design Director Bob Barkin, at bbarkin@washingtonian.com or send USPS mail to Bob Barkin, *Washingtonian Magazine*, 1828 L Street, Suite 200, Washington, DC, 20036.

MOVING?: Send a change-of-address or postcard and *Black Alumni Network* newsletter will be there with you.

People

Jean-Claude "Baby Doc"

Duvalier is broke. The ex-tyrant of Haiti, who was exiled to France in the late 1980s, lives in a borrowed apartment, and Duvalier told Wall Street

Marjorie Valbrun

Journal reporter **Marjorie Valbrun, '86**, that he lives off donations. Valbrun profiled Duvalier in a page one April 16 story.

Robert Fleming, '81, wrote "Trouble Man," the feature

for the March-April Black Issues Book Review on Amiri Baraka

(Leroy Jones), the Robert Fleming New Jersey poet laureate, who was under siege by conservative media and Jewish organizations because of segments of his 9-11 themed poem "Somebody Blew Up America." Long before the latest firestorm, wrote Fleming, literary legend Baraka made controversy a way of life.



Black Alumni Network
Newsletter (757) 591-2371

Wayne J. Dawkins, editor
Betty Winston Baye, Angela Chatman, Deborah Creighton, Cheryl Devall, Keith Rushing, E.R. Shipp, contributing editors
Published monthly by Columbia University Journalism Alumni
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E.R. Shipp, '79, writes an op-ed column for the New York Daily News and she has a side occupation: "I live on (Ocean Beach, N.Y.) a beautiful island surrounded by the Great South Bay on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. Good for thinking and writing and just doing nothing."

"I own a summer-season-only pizza parlor out here and am using my home economics training. But (last) winter I've also become the 'pot pie' queen out here."

Shipp said so far, her favorite recipe – and a hit with folks she's served it to – is on pages 52-53 of "Pot Pies: Comfort Food Under Cover" by Diane Phillips: Old-Fashioned Chicken Pot Pie with Chive Mashed Potato Crust.

Rob Parker, '88, sent this update: "Things are going great in Detroit. I am writing a sports column for The Detroit News three times a week. I have a sports-talk radio show, 'Sports Night with Parker and The Man,' on 97.1 FM Talk five nights a week. I also have a weekly TV program called, 'Sports Rap.' It's a show where hip hop music and sports connect. It airs on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. on CBS Detroit."

BAN endowment

A recent \$10,000 gift left us only \$10,575 short of establishing an endowed scholarship fund. Alumni are urged to give and have their companies – where available – match their gifts. Contact Erin McCarthy (em480@columbia.edu).

THANK YOU, April new and renewing subscribers from New York, N.Y.; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Detroit area; Silver Spring, Md.; Washington, D.C. and Westport, Conn.

Register early and save on registration

The Early Bird convention registration deadline is May 16. Register this month in order to get the best rate.

- Full members \$230,
 - Associate members \$230,
 - Student members \$105,
 - NABJ and affiliate chapter members \$207.
- Register at

https://readyapps.memberclicks.com/apps/110/app_283/application.asp

The standard pre-registration deadline is July 7.

Region IV conference

Time is running out to pre-register for the NABJ Region IV (Southeast) Conference, May 29 to June 1 at the downtown Sheraton Atlanta.

The conference will include a candidate's forum, a Newsmaker's luncheon, a Hall of Fame Luncheon and a Sunday Brunch. To register, go to www.nabj.org/regconf.html.

For general convention information, go to nabj.org/buildingthebest.



To find out what to see and do in Dallas, go to www.nabj.org/buildingthebest/todo.htm

Updated Career Fair Exhibitor List

New additions to the list of companies who will have booths at the convention:

ABC
AOL Time Warner
Associated Press
Congressional Quarterly
Knight Ridder
Medill School of Journalism
NBC
ReligionSource
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

For the latest exhibitor updates, visit

www.nabj.org/buildingthebest/exhibitors.html

Student development supplies request

The NABJ Student Development Program is around the corner and we are looking for any form of contribution.

Basic Supplies Needed:

- Ten boxes of 8.5 X 11 paper;
- Three boxes of 11 x 17 paper;
- Grease pencils;
- Twelve giant easels;
- Six news gathering baskets;
- Reporter's notebooks;
- Lots of double- and triple-A batteries.

Ship items to NABJ, 8701-A Adelphi Rd., Adelphi, Md. 20783
ATTN: Student Development Program, by July 1.

To obtain a complete list of supplies needed, call Student Services Associate Warren Paul at (301) 445-7100, extension 108, or e-mail warren@nabj.org.

Dallas★

Black Alumni Network

Newsletter
108 Terrell Road, Box 6693
Newport News, VA 23606

To Subscribe:

One Year, \$20 (12 issues)

Two years, \$38 (24 issues)

Schmooze factor stoked Blair scandal

A flawed old boys network at The New York Times is a major reason the Jayson Blair scandal occurred, wrote E.R. Shipp, J-'78.

As pundits framed the first stage of the Blair debate as a cautionary tale about affirmative action, Shipp in her New Daily News opened the column the week of May 12-16 wrote: "Let's get it right. Blair lost his job when it became apparent that he had 'committed frequent acts of journalistic fraud' as The Times revealed in its unprecedented inquiry into Blair's — and its own — failures. He snookered not only readers, but also Times editors too tied into the old boys network or too politically correct to call a spade a spade.

Shipp continued, "Blair was known for 'schmoozing with the right people,' one former Times editor told me. Schmoozing by the ambitious is what counts — 'no matter how screwed up they are,' this editor said.

"Hey, I know. I worked at The Times for 13 years. And the fact that I'm not there is probably testament to my lack of talent for schmoozing."

Shipp was a national correspondent and part of a team of reporters that did the Tawana Brawley expose. She left Times to teach at Columbia University J-school and write for the Daily News. In 1996, Shipp won a Pulitzer Prize for her commentaries.

Disgraced Jayson Blair is Defiant

Disgraced ex-New York Times reporter Jayson Blair may have put to rest assumptions that he is remorseful about the wreckage he has wrought. In an interview with Sridhar Pappu of the New York Observer, Blair was unapologetic, even defiant about his plagiarisms, misrepresentations and self-destructive behavior that marginalized one of the world's greatest newspapers to an object of ridicule.

Continued on back page



Departures

... and new opportunities for two J-School alums

Dorothy Gilliam leaving Post to train journalism advisers

Dorothy Butler Gilliam, J-'61, is ending a very distinguished career at The Washington Post. After a tenure spanning more than four decades as a reporter, editor, columnist and leading-edge newsroom educator — and service as the 10th president of the National Association of Black Journalists (1993-95) — Gilliam will leave the newsroom at the end of June, according to a May 2 memo by Post deputy managing editor Milton Coleman.

Gilliam began as a reporter on the city staff of the Post in 1961, then eight years as an assignment editor in Style, and then nearly 18 years as a



Metro columnist. Wrote Coleman, "her knowledge, her insight, her voice and her presence made this newspaper fuller and better."

In 1997, Gilliam, launched the Young Journalists Development Program. Every District of Columbia public high school now has a resurrected student newspaper, and high school journalism is thriving on suburban campuses as well. The Post has partnerships with college journalism programs.

Graduates of "Dorothy U" programs are working at newspapers throughout the country, including the Post. In September, Gilliam will join the George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs as the 2003-04 J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Fellow. Her plan is to develop a summer institute to train high school journalism advisers from minority communities. Athelia Knight, assistant director of YJDP, will become director of the program July 1.

— Reprinted from Blackjournalist.com

Dawkins, BAN founder, joins BlackJournalist.com and SOV

The return of BlackJournalist.com Bulletin brings with it a new member to the team. Wayne Dawkins, J-'80, a veteran journalist of more than 20 years, has been named contributing editor to this publication.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Wayne's insights on the industry," said Ken Smikle, publisher of BlackJournalist.com. "He will provide valuable management experience and broad knowledge of the news business as we grow this enterprise and develop more resources for African-American news professionals."

Dawkins is the owner of the 10-year-old August Press, which has published "Black Journalists: The NABJ Story." The publishing house is set to release its latest title next month, "Rugged Waters: Black Journalists Swim the Mainstream." Dawkins also founded and still publishes the Black Alumni Network newsletter, which chronicles the comings and goings of graduates of the Columbia University School of Journalism.

He also agreed to serve as an editor and writer with Soul of Virginia, a new magazine published by the Richmond-based African American Heritage Association of Virginia.

For the past five years Dawkins was a member of the editorial board of the Daily Press in Hampton Roads, Va. His previous posts include the Post-Tribune in



Gary, Ind.; the Courier-Post in Cherry Hill, N.J. and the Daily Argus in Mount Vernon, N.Y.

People

Evelyn C. White, '85, wrote "A life of passion and protest: The priestess who was Nina Simone," for the May 4 San Francisco Chronicle.

White described her treasured keepsake — a hand-written letter she received from Simone more than 20 years ago. White was to spend the

Continued on back page

People

Continued
summer of 1982 in a dairy-farming enclave in Denmark. She sought an interview with Simone, who was living in Switzerland.

White received a letter from

Geneva that asked "can you TYPE? Are you available NOW to DO some writing?" "The Priestess curried in a gigantic script that curled all over the page," wrote White.

White and the late Simone did not connect, yet the Oakland-based writer has a cherished memory.

Read the entire story at www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2003/05/04/IN249192.DTL



Leticia Theodore is a reporter with WNYC Radio in New York city. Since J-School she worked with ABC Radio Network and CNN then moved on to a Bronx weekly. "I've been checking in on the J-School link to BAN," Theodore told us. "There's a lot going on and I think the \$10,000 addition to the scholarship fund is awesome!"

Endowment update

A generous \$10,000 gift has pushed us more than halfway to our goal. When a minimum \$25,000 is raised, that will be enough money to establish the endowment and generate annual scholarships. The scholarships will assist needy students.

Send your check to Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. In the lower left corner, note that the gift is for the "Black Alumni Network scholarship." Send gifts to Erin McCarthy, Development Office, Columbia University School of Journalism, NYC 10027.

THANK YOU, May new and renewing subscribers from Chicago and Los Angeles

Disgraced, defiant

Continued

Pressure got the better of him, Blair, 27, told the Observer for its May 26 edition: "I was young at The New York Times. I under a lot of pressure. I was black at The New York Times, which is something that hurts you as much as it helps you. I certainly have health problems, which probably led to me having to kill Jayson Blair, the journalist."

"I was either going to kill myself or I was going to kill the journalist persona."

It remains to be seen if Blair also killed the careers of his bosses, executive editor Howell Raines, and managing editor Gerald Boyd.

According to a May 26 Newsweek cover story on Blair, and numerous news accounts, Raines and Boyd ignored warnings from sub-ordinates about deceptive and shoddy work by Blair and incredibly continued to promote him.

Boyd, the highest ranking black editor at The Times and 2001 National Association of Black Journalists Journalist of the Year, was accused by Times staffers of coddling the incorrigible reporter. Yet in the Observer interview, Blair bristled at suggestions that Boyd protected him: "I don't particularly like Gerald," said Blair. "To suggest he was my mentor is not a fair characterization; it's an assumption based on race that's silly."

"And I don't like him! How did Gerald become my mentor?"

As the newspaper picks through the wreckage that Newsweek described as "The Times bomb," Blair was holed up in his Brooklyn, N.Y. apartment pondering his next move, possibly a book or screenplay about how he played a great newspaper for a fool.

Wayne Dawkins' account in blackjournalist.com, an online newsletter.

NABJ Authors Showcase

August 6-9 Dallas

Featuring Columbia Journalism Alumni and their new books:

- **Wayne Dawkins** ("Rugged Waters," Aug. 9)
- **Lynne Duke** ("Mandela, Mobutu and Me," Aug. 8)
- **Yolanda Joe** ("The Hatwearer's Lesson," Aug. 7)
- **Jill Nelson** ("Sexual Healing," Aug. 7)

- **Betty Winston Baye** ("Blackbird," moderator of Aug. 9 Independent and self-publishing workshop.

- **A'Lelia Bundles** ("On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker," coordinator of the Authors Showcase.

visit www.nabj.org

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Black Alumni Network

Newsletter

www.jrn.columbia.edu

23rd anniversary

Volume 23, Number 7
JULY 2003

N.Y. arts award for Aqua Lezli Hope, '77

Akua Lezli Hope, '77, of Corning, N.Y. has won a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry.

She explained, "I was in New York City last week (May 29) for the celebration and for the orientation. I have to find a non-arts, non-profit organization and

deliver a poetry experience to their audience. For those in New York State, if you have ideas about organizations or folks who might appreciate my offerings, please let me know. Thanks for sharing this joy." Visit www.artfarm.com



Akua Lezli Hope

Keith Rushing, '90, of the Daily Press of Newport News-Hampton, Va. on June 16 wrote about the James River pier that lures fishing

enthusiasts
People
from rural Virginia and North Carolina. Because of the cool and rainy spring, a lot of fish did not swim offshore to warmer water, and this created a bounty for fishing folks. Jocelyn Stewart, '89, of the Los Angeles Times wrote about families of deployed military who

Continued on back page

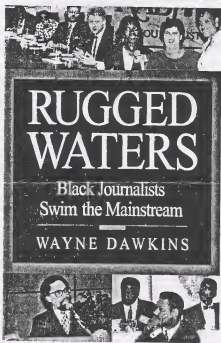
Visit August Press' booth at the
The
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Book
Fair

Saturday, July 19 at West 135th Street and Malcolm X and Adam Clayton Powell boulevards, NYC

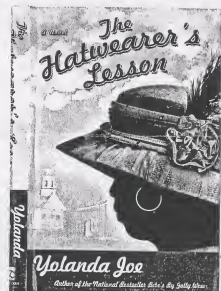
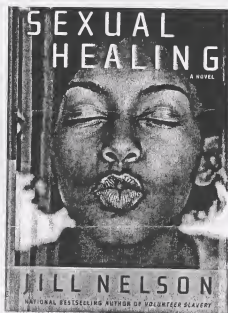
Publishers of "Rugged Waters," "Blackbird," and Sometimes You Get the Bear."

www.augustpress.net

Authors showcase at NABJ - Dallas



Wayne Dawkins' J-'80, new book covers the crusading spirit and power of NABJ and its members in the early 1990s, then decline at the end of the century. "Rugged Waters" nudges the 27-year-old association to rebound this decade. Dawkins' author signing is Saturday, Aug. 9, 12:15 to 1 p.m., following his 11 a.m. workshop on publishing ... Jill Nelson, J-'80, offers her first novel and fourth book. Nelson's discussion and signing is Thursday, Aug. 7. Joining her that day is the prolific Yolanda Joe, J-'85, on a panel called "What's Love - and Sex - Got to do with it?: Sex, Race and Gender in Fiction and Non-Fiction," from 3:45 to 5 p.m. The Jill Nelson and Yolanda



Joe author sign-ins are from 5 to 5:30 p.m. Dawkins, Joe and Nelson and other alumni authors will participate in a Thursday group signing and reception. Visit www.nabj.org.

Alum's photos to be showcased in Dallas

Dorothy Davis, J-'77 will lecture on her father Griff Davis' J-'49 news photography at the NABJ convention in Dallas. "The Use of Photography as a Development Tool by the late Griffith J. Davis, Ebony's first Roving Photographer and U.S. Foreign Service Officer," is Thursday, Aug. 7, from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. Davis is president of Photos by Griff Davis.

PHOTO BY GRIFF DAVIS



Griff Davis and Langston Hughes - Atlanta, Georgia, 1947

Fathers, sons and music

I consumed food for the soul while listening to Wynton Marsalis and his dad Ellis perform the music of late New Orleans local legend James Black during a "Live From Lincoln Center" broadcast on PBS last month.

Trumpet man Wynton brought his peers from New Orleans and they threw down with dad, the pianist. When I heard "Twelve's it" I wanted to slap myself. Why had

I waited so long to hear such soul-stirring music?

I pulled out the "Fathers and Sons" LP (1982) and admired the proud faces of Ellis, Wynton and Branford, and Chico (Freeman) and his dad, Von. I played the LP a few days later and was reminded of the bold and masculine, yet at times tender quality of the tunes.

The PBS broadcast reminded me why local legends deserve to be memorialized. "Live From Lincoln Center" was a fitting tribute on the eves of Black Music Month and Fathers Day.



Wayne Dawkins
Commentary



Ellis, Chico, Wynton, Branford, Von

People

Continued

are making end meet with help from government and other sources, for example, protection from eviction, deferred utility bills and free calling cards. We spotted Stewart's wire service story June 17. ... Contributors and subjects, inside the July/August Black Issues Book Review: "Let's talk about sex!" Authors **Jill Nelson, '80**, and Tricia Rose compare notes; "The Mystery of Oprah's 'Classics'" by **Wayne Dawkins, '80**; "Sweet Harmonies Translate into Sales," by **Elizabeth Atkins, '91**; **Esther Iverem, '83**, and Seeing Black.com, "An Independent Forum for Critical Black Voices," and "Erotica - His and Hers," by **Robert Fleming, '81**.

Endowment update

A generous \$10,000 gift has pushed us more than halfway to our goal. When a minimum \$25,000 is raised, that will be enough money to establish the endowment and generate annual scholarships. The scholarships will assist needy students. Send your check to Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. In the lower left corner, note that the gift is for the "Black Alumni Network scholarship." Send gifts to Erin McCarthy, Development Office, Columbia University School of Journalism, NYC 10027.

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Published monthly by Columbia University Journalism Alumni (ISSN 1040-7758)
e-mail: wdawk69643@aol.com

Budget update

Balance before Jan 2003 issue	\$ 38
Revenues, Dec. 15, 2002 to June 15, 2003	1,137
Subtotal	1,175

Expenses, printing and postage, January to June 2003	1,306
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Balance before July 2003 issue	(-) \$ 131
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PAYABLE TO AUGUST PRESS. We are closing the Black Alumni Network account at New Jersey-based Commerce Bank NA because it is too difficult to accurately track transactions.

We will run expenses through the Harbor Bank account for August Press, Wayne Dawkins' business in Virginia.

Therefore, make newsletter subscription checks payable to "August Press."

From January to June, 32 individuals or organizations sent new or renewal subscriptions, and two advertisements were purchased.

Our newsletter marches on, every month since July 1980.

Help us grow and give you more!
- Wayne J. Dawkins

A YEAR AGO THIS MONTH: Jay Harris, former publisher of the San Jose Mercury News, was among three finalists in the search for a new dean of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Last spring, Nicholas Lemann, Washington correspondent for The New Yorker magazine, was selected as dean. ... **Craig Marberry, '85**, and his illustrated book, "Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats," was adapted for the stage at venues in Princeton, N.J. and New York, N.Y.

Black Alumni Network

Newsletter
108 Terrell Road, Box 6693
Newport News, VA 23606

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Black Alumni

Network

NEWSLETTER | Our 23rd Year | AUGUST 2003 | Vol. 23 No. 8

PEOPLE

Alumni comings and goings



Dan Holly, '85, who has worked as assistant Wake County editor for The News & Observer since 1998, has been named editor and general manager of North Raleigh News.

Holly, 48, is worked as a reporter at The Star-Ledger in Newark, N.J., The Miami Herald and the Detroit Free Press, and as an editor at Federal Times in Virginia.

In 1999, a novel Holly wrote, "Sometimes You Get the Bear," was published by August Press.

Ann M. Simmons, '88, of the Los Angeles Times reported from civil war-torn Liberia. In a July 21 dispatch from Monrovia, Simmons wrote this: "At one bridge near the central market, government soldiers took time out to smoke marijuana and loot the deserted stalls. Other soldiers raced through the city center in pickups as gunfire ricocheted off buildings.

"Civilians ran through the capital's streets, bearing buckets, blankets and bags full of their possessions, and crouching to avoid being struck by fire.

Thousands sought shelter at the residential compound near the U.S. Embassy, despite shelling near its gates."

Liberia was colonized by ex-American slaves in the early 1800s.

Simmons completed a Nieman fellowship at Harvard last spring. In 2000, she won an NABJ Salute to Excellence award for her reporting from Africa.
(Continued on back)



Wayne Dawkins
Commentary

A neighborhood gentleman of certain age visited my table at the Harlem Book Fair, read the subtitle of my new book, "Rugged Waters: Black Journalists Swim the Mainstream," then offered this militant critique: Mainstream equals selling out to the white power structure."

Later that day, another man examined the goods then told me: I want to get your book. I've always wondered how you (black journalists in the daily media) do it.

My reply to many militants: Stop assuming that whites control everything. You're giving them more credit than they deserve.

We've living in multicultural America, like it or not.

Even Harlem isn't exclusively black. Whites were at the book fair either to make money or soak up black culture. I saw more whites and other people on 135th and 125th streets than I can remember decades ago.

We may have reversed the 60-year phenomenon that Ken Burns pointed out in his documentary series "Jazz" that the warning "Don't go to up Harlem" started in 1943 during World War II when race fraternizing at the Savoy ballroom angered military brass and resulted in heavy handed tactics that provoked a race riot that keep many whites away for decades.

Time has changed the landscape. The Harlem I see evolving is coming back as a crossroads of many cultures.

Black Alumni Network Breakfast At



Columbia University Journalism alumni will hold its annual Black Alumni Network breakfast at the NABJ convention in Dallas 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 9. The place is The Centennial Café on the atrium level (second floor) of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. RSVP with Deborah Creighton, '97 (creighbaby@hotmail.com). Also, visit http://dallasregency.hyatt.com/property/hotelinfo/dining/dining_info.jhtml

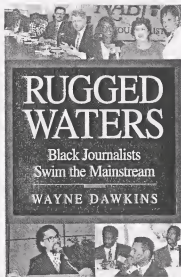
PEOPLE (Continued from front)

Paul S. Mason, '81, was named executive producer of an ABC News "Prime Time Monday" series that begins Sept. 15, reported Richard Prince's "Journal-isms" media column.

Mason has been with the network for 22 years. Said ABC New President David Westin, Mason "Has proven his ability to run a broadcast and reach out for stories that we otherwise might not learn about."

Authors Showcase at NABJ

Jill Nelson, J-'80, offers her first novel and fourth book. Nelson's discussion and signing is Thursday, Aug. 7. ...Joining her that day is the prolific **Yolanda Joe, J-'85**, on a panel called "What's Love — and Sex — Got to do with it?: Sex, Race and Gender in Fiction and Non-Fiction," from 3:45 to 5 p.m. The Jill Nelson and Yolanda Joe author signings are from 5-5:30 p.m. ...**Wayne Dawkins' J-'80**, new book covers the crusading spirit and power of NABJ and its members in the early 1990s, then decline at the end of the century. "Rugged Waters" nudges the 27-year-old association to rebound this decade. Dawkins' author signing is Saturday, Aug. 9, 12:15-1 p.m., following his 11 a.m. workshop on publishing ... Dawkins, Joe and Nelson and other alumni authors will participate in a Thursday group signing and reception. Visit www.nabj.org.



RUGGED WATERS Black Journalists Swim the Mainstream By Wayne J. Dawkins

ISBN No.: 0-9635720-7-5
Price: \$15.95

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Wayne J. Dawkins — editor
Betty Winston Baye, Angela Chapman, Keith Rushing, E.R. Shipp, Cheryl Devall — contributing editors

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Black Alumni

Network NEWSLETTER | Our 23rd Year | SEPT. 2003 | Vol. 23 No. 9

PEOPLE

Alumni comings and goings



Helping Hands at NABJ

As editor of the NABJ Student Online project at the Dallas convention, **Michelle Johnson**, '82, was often out of sight, but definitely not out of mind. Michael A.W. Ottey, senior staff writer with The Miami Herald, posted this post-convention valentine on the NABJ Listserv: "The students, brilliantly coached by the professionals, did a fantastic job covering the convention. But special recognition must be bestowed upon Michelle Johnson and her small and yet intrepid online crew. I don't know if most of you are aware that Michelle has been at the helm of that online project for a long, long time ... I lose track of how long, but she's been at it for many years, doing the work with a quiet dignity even when faced with obstacles. While others have come and gone, Michelle has remained (sometimes the solo professional working with the students). Her work and dedication to the students and keeping all of NABJ informed needs to be publicly recognized. Thanks Michelle!"

(Continued on back page)

Africans in the Americas

Stories from
the Caribbean

By Keith Rushing

Haiti – the only nation formed in the Western Hemisphere through a successful slave rebellion.

Cuba – a country in which the contributions of African people are more fully acknowledged and the barriers of race are more blurred than in the United States.

Jamaica – a black country in which many people regard skin bleaching as a way to achieve socio-economic mobility.

These were the some of the places African-American journalists discussed at a National Association of Black Journalists' workshop focused on the histories of black people in the Caribbean, their role in building the Americas and the dynamics of race in their countries.

Much of that history hasn't been disseminated widely in the United States, the journalists said. That's left many people ignorant of the immense contributions and victories of black people in the Caribbean, who, like their ancestors, came to the Americas in the holds of ships.

The journalists on this Dallas convention panel had traveled to Cuba, Jamaica and Haiti. They wrote about their experiences in a journal called "Home Away From Home: Africans in the Americas," to be published later this year by the Institute for Advanced

(Continued on next page)

J-School's black enrollment down, Hispanics up

By Angela Chatman

Two hundred and four students enrolled in the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism this year, with Hispanic student numbers increasing as those of African-Americans decreased.

Minority representation over all remains good – at 28 percent – because of the increase in the numbers of Hispanic students, according to Robert MacDonald, director of admissions and financial aid.

Hispanic students made up 10 percent of the Class of 2004; Asians 10 percent, and African Americans 8 percent.

In addition, the school has 97 part-time students; 25 doctoral candidates; 12 mid-career journalists, and 18 fellows.

Cost remains a major issue for J-School students. This year, the total cost of attending the school will be about \$54,000, MacDonald said. That includes \$34,085 in tuition alone. Scholarships are one way to offset the rising costs and scholarships have been increasing, but not at the level desired, said Assistant Dean Arlene Morgan.

The school has lost a \$28,000 scholarship from the New York Times and a \$25,000 from CBS. An additional \$20,000 from the Washington Post soon will be phased out, as well.

The school now has a goal of raising \$50 million in scholarships for students, Morgan said. (Continued on next page)

Africans

(Continued from page 1)
Journalism Studies.

The work is part of a project exploring linkages between blacks throughout the Americas organized by the Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies at Delaware State University.

Tonyaa Weathersbee, a columnist for the Florida Times-Union,

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explained how Voodoo helped Haitians cope with the terrors of slavery and the difficulties that followed the defeat of their French enslavers. Voodoo, she said, is a fusion of Catholic religious customs with the worship of African ancestor-gods.

Weathersbee found the poverty in modern-day Haiti so deep and pervasive that it unnerved and depressed her to the point of tears.

In Cite Soliel, a slum near the capital Port-au-Prince, she saw 13-year-old kids wearing no clothes and other children walking around with bloated bellies. On one day, Weathersbee said, children surrounded the car the journalists traveled in, thrusting their hands through its windows and begging.

"Nothing I could do was enough to help them on that day," she said. "I didn't see poverty in Cuba that came near to approaching the poverty in Haiti."

Still, Weathersbee said, there seems to be an irrepressible energy in Haiti that compels people to face the rigors of everyday life.

Other panelists talked about differences in U.S. immigration policy that allow light-skinned or white Cuban immigrants in under established quotas while most Haitians are detained, labeled as economic refugees and repatriated. While Cubans are considered political refugees from communism, Haiti's poverty has deep roots in U.S. foreign policy, including American support for the brutal Duvalier regimes, panelists said.

"If anybody needs economic and political help it's Haiti," said David Person, of the Huntsville Times. "Why do we have this illogical policy?"

Weathersbee said Cubans can claim asylum, saying that they don't have enough meat in their diets.

DeWayne Wickham, director of the Institute, said the economic gap is widening between white and near-white Miami Cubans

and Afro-Cubans because wealthier, light-skinned Cuban-Americans are allowed to send thousands of dollars a year to their relatives in Cuba.

He said the Afro-Cuban population comprised the majority of those who fought in the Cuban revolution, while lighter-skinned Cubans who dominated the wealthier business class before the revolution remain the most vocal opponents to Fidel Castro.

The Institute is planning a trip this fall to Brazil, where journalists will examine the cultural contributions and racial dynamics of Afro-Brazilians. Its project on the links among Africans in the Western Hemisphere will conclude in North America.

Rushing is a 1990 Columbia Journalism graduate.

J-school

(Continued from page 1)

At the same time, the school hopes to raise \$1 million to match the \$1 million ABC has donated to the school in the name of the late Boone Arledge. That money will go to converting the fifth floor of the J-school building into the Boone Arledge Broadcast Studio, with a state-of-the-art studio and equipment.

The floor will become a first-class broadcast floor, Morgan said.

Construction on the new studio is slated to begin in May 2004. Other changes will come soon. Incoming Dean Nicholas Lemann will re-evaluate the school's curriculum with an eye toward establishing a two-year program.

As these new changes loom large on the horizon, another change is slated to come as Phyl Garland, the school's only tenured black professor, retires. Garland will be available to students through the coming year, however.

Chatman is a 1977 Columbia Journalism graduate.

Closing the gap

\$1.2 K pledged to scholar fund

Five Columbia University Journalism alumni made September and December pledges of \$1,200 combined to the Black Alumni Network scholarship endowment fund. The pledges were made after Wayne Dawkins announced at the J-school breakfast in Dallas that the three-year-old fund drive had \$14,695 toward the minimum \$25,000 needed to establish and endow scholarship.

The pledgees were Dawkins, Lawrence Aaron; Addie Rimmer; Sheila Stainback and Reginald Stuart.

The new pledges would close the gap to \$15,895.

Several people noted that an incentive to give generously would be to honor Professor Phyllis T. Garland, who is retiring

at the end of the 2003-04 school year.

To give to the fund, e-mail Erin McCarthy in the fund raising and development office, em480@columbia.edu.

Roll call

Attendees at Columbia
J-school breakfast at NABJ

Lawrence A. Aaron, '70, Bergen [N.J.] Record; A'Leia Bundles, '76, ABC News; Angela Chatman, '77, Cleveland Plain Dealer; Deborah Creighton, '97, Wall Street Journal online; Cynthia Daniels, '03, Hempstead, N.Y.; Wayne Dawkins, '80, BlackJournalist.com; Trevor Delaney, '97, SmartMoney magazine, New York; Wendell Edwards, '97, Houston; Patrice Johnson, '91; Virgin Islands; Olga Joseph, '92, Baltimore; Robert MacDonald, GSJ administration; Arlene Morgan GSJ assistant dean; Addie Rimmer, '78, GSJ

professor; Janell Ross, '01, Corpus Christi, TX; Sheila Stainback, '01, Court TV; Reginald Stuart, '71, Knight Ridder; Gayle Pollard-Terry, '73, Los Angeles Times.

Jobline

Standard & Poor's in New York seeks a **copy editor** - public finance. Primary responsibilities include editing articles for electronic distribution, tracking articles through the editorial process, maintaining logs and audit trails, and transmitting articles to vendors.

Duties: Hands on editing of all article types; works directly with analysts-writers to revise articles; maintain daily logs and track articles; preparation of weekly reports; transmitting articles to vendors and repository; work in a team environment.

Requirements: At least two years line editing experience for a business or financial publication; wire service experience a plus; extremely strong computer skills; PC literate with excellent working knowledge of Windows and word-processing software.

E-mail a resume to: len_hollie@sandp.com. **Len Hollie**, '89, editorial manager, corporate & government ratings, Standard & Poor's, can also be reached at: 55 Water St., 38th floor, New York, NY 10041. Or call 212-438-5104, fax. 212-438-2127

... The Daily Press, of Newport News, Va. is looking for **reporters and editors**. The Daily Press (Tribune Co.) is a 100,000 circulation daily in Newport News, Va., adjacent to Hampton, Va. It's also about 10 to 20 miles from Norfolk and Virginia Beach. The paper is looking for a metro columnist, a Hampton education reporter, a Hampton city reporter, a sports reporter, and a features editor for the advance team. If interested, e-mail state/region editor Dave Hendrickson at dhendrickson@dailypress.com. Or call 757-846-3635.

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Nicholas Lemann

Dean of Columbia University GSJ

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Newsweek

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PEOPLE (Continued from front)

Lisa Rhodes, '88, of Upper Marlboro, Md. is working as a staff writer at Soundoff, a newspaper covering events at the Fort Meade Army Post in Fort Meade, Md. Rhodes' e-mail address is libran@peoplepc.com.

...**Michelle Phillips-Evans, '00**, is completed a November-August Congressional fellowship with U.S. Rep. Robert C. Scott, D-Va. Phillips-Evans was managing editor of the Washington Afro-American. ... **Nedra Rhone, '00**, is an education reporter with Newsday in Long Island, N.Y. ... **Gayle Williams, '86**, is a

features editor with the Journal News in Westchester and Rockland counties, N.Y. She was an editorial writer... **Lynne Duke, '86**, Washington Post New York correspondent and author of "Mandela, Mobutu and Me," was interviewed July 9 on WNYC-FM [NPR] about President Bush's Africa trip. Read the interview that is linked to the Black Alumni Network Web page at www.jrn.columbia.edu... **Rita Thompson, '80**, a Chicago-based producer for Oprah Winfrey, was visiting her hometown, New York, N.Y. We caught up with her at the Harlem Book Fair in mid-July.



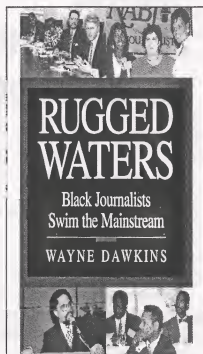
Former NABJ President, Vernon Jarrett and 2003 Journalist of the Year George Curry share a light moment at NABJ

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NEWSLETTER | Our 23rd Year | OCT 2003 | Vol. 23 No. 10

PEOPLE

Alumni comings and goings



Veteran broadcaster **Diann Burns, J-'81**, will join CBS 2 Chicago as co-anchor of the 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts. Burns will begin work at CBS 2 on Oct. 13, said Joe Ahern, president and general manager. Burns was co-anchor of WLS-TV's top rated 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts, a position she held since 1994. She was Chicago's first African-American woman to serve as lead anchor of a 10 p.m. news broadcast.

Burns left WLS last winter during a contract dispute [May 2003 BAN].

Said Burns, "I am so excited to join the CBS 2 news team, working with old friends and people that I've known from covering Chicago all these years. I'm looking forward to getting back to doing what I love. And, for me, this is 'Hello again!' to the viewers."

Michelle Johnson, '82, a long-time coordinator of student projects for the National Lesbian

and Gay Journalists Association, was recognized with a Distinguished Service Award at the organization's annual convention last month in Los Angeles. Johnson has served as a student project volunteer at six NLGJA conventions. In addition, she has served as a volunteer and coordinator on print and online projects for the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the Asian American Journalists Association, the American Society of Newspaper Editors, and Boston's High School Journalism Workshop.

"I'm thrilled to be recognized for my years of involvement with the student projects," said Johnson. "I've always said that helping to train the next generation of journalists is one of the most important things that the professional organizations do." Johnson is an adjunct professor of journalism at Boston University, and a free-lance technology columnist for the Boston Globe.

Dorothy Davis, '77, reports that "Photos by Griff Davis," has launched a web site, www.griffdavis.com

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You'll also receive BAN news as it happens.



Wayne Dawkins
Commentary

It was Isabel's fault. I live in Hampton Roads, Va. [1.6 million people], the metro area that took the initial and most brutal whack from the hurricane. My flight to New York City to attend Dean Nicholas Lemann's reception was canceled.

The 2 p.m. flight was scheduled right about the time Isabel acted out like Godzilla, knocking over 100-foot tall trees, ripping out power lines and soaking houses with 8-foot waves.

After the whipping, would I be able to fly to New York the next day and participate in the Harlem Book Fair on Long Island? The probability was unlikely, but luck and resourcefulness made the unlikely possible.

First, with no electric power or telephone service – but an undamaged house, thank God – I did not know if the airport was open. At 4 a.m., I got in my car with the intent of driving to the airport so I could be told – yes or no – whether I still had a 7 a.m. flight.

However, I had street trouble. A 100-foot long, 4-foot thick tree blocked my street at one end, and a cluster of smaller trees blocked the only other escape route in my cul-de-sac.

Still determined to get an answer, I dressed up and walked a mile with my rolling luggage to Warwick Boulevard, hoping to catch a bus to the airport only six miles away. No buses came, and shortly after
(Continued on back page)

DAWKINS from front page 7 a.m., the scheduled flight time, I dragged home to ponder my next move, or give up.

Soon, good things began to happen. I spotted a carrier placing that day's edition of the Daily Press in the honor box at the post office. I handed the lady a buck to get a paper, and minutes after pausing to read the special hurricane coverage, I bought a second paper to give to a neighbor.

As I turned the corner to my block, neighbors were out, gazing with awe at the wreckage. One of my neighbors is a fire department chaplain.

"Where are you coming from?" Marie took note of my dark suit. Actually, I said, I was trying to get to the airport.

"Want a ride?"

Marie's old pickup was parked on the other side of the big tree blocking the road. She drove me to the airport. We discovered that Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport was not only open, but I could fly on the 2 p.m. Airtran flight because the 7 a.m. was canceled.

For hours I alternated between napping and making business calls with my phone card. The 2 p.m. flight left on time and touched down in New York's LaGuardia Airport at 3:15.

My next trick was to get to Freeport, L.I. cheaply. I hopped a city bus with intentions of going into Manhattan to catch the Long Island Railroad in midtown, but with the bus crawling in early rush hour traffic, I jumped off at the stop under the El[e]vated train on Astoria Boulevard. I rode the El to the Woodside, Queens stop, then rode a LIRR four stops to

Freeport.

I arrived about 6 p.m., beat, but on time. Total cost of an MTA bus, train and suburban rail was \$12.75.

I perked up at the book fair reception. The audience of about 150 people lavished praise on the dozen authors who showed up. I was able the next day to sell books from my vending table and share my experiences as a panelist at a "Pros and Cons of Self-publishing" workshop. I returned home Sunday morning.

Hurricane Isabel threw a lot of obstacles in my path, yet with a little help from my friends, I hurdled the barriers and experienced a remarkable East Coast ride.

[The writer is a 1980 Columbia University Journalism graduate and author of "Rugged Waters: Black Journalists Swim the Mainstream," August Press, 2002].

CALENDAR

Columbia Homecoming

It's the 250th anniversary of Columbia University. Wednesday through Sunday Oct. 15-19 symposiums, film screenings and a birthday bash. Register for your favorite activities by calling 877-250TH-CU or visit www.c250.columbia.edu

Hearst fellowships

Hearst Newspapers (San Francisco Chronicle, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, San Antonio Express News, Houston Chronicle, et al) seek applicants for its fellowship pro-gram. To get an application, write to Hearst Newspapers Journalism Fellowship Program, 801 Texas Ave., Houston, TX 77002, or call 713-220-6945. Deadline: Dec. 1.

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Black Alumni

Network NEWSLETTER | Our 23rd Year | NOV 2003 | Vol. 23 No. 11

Nominations open for alumni awards

The Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Alumni Awards are highly prized because they represent recognition of excellence by one's professional peers. The awards are given to alumni for a distinguished journalism career in any medium, for an outstanding single accomplishment in journalism, for notable contributions to journalism education, or for achievement in related fields.

The awards are given annually at the Alumni Association's Spring meeting.

The Alumni Association's Executive Committee selects the award recipients but alumni are urged to participate in the process by nominating working alumni who merit the award. Nominations can be made by mail or electronically. A form can be obtained at

www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni

Provide sufficient information about the nominee's achievements and, when possible, include supporting materials such as clips, books or tapes.

Deadline for submission is Dec. 15.

Among the 159 previous winners African-American recipients include Reginald Stuart, '71; Marquita Pool-Eckert, '69; Neil Henry, '78; Vincent Harding, '53; Dorothy Gilliam, '61; Wayne Dawkins, '80 and Ernest Boynton, '71.

PEOPLE

Alumni comings and goings

Donald Scott, '90, is an assistant professor of English at the Community College of Philadelphia. Scott is a history columnist for the Journal-Register newspaper chain and he is writing a historical novel based on the truth about Camp William Penn, the largest federal institution to train black soldiers during the Civil War. His research for the book has led him to interviewing and writing about descendants of the soldiers, numerous historical repositories, including the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and even Internet resources.

Scott is also a Commonwealth Speaker for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council focusing on the African practices of colonial Pennsylvania blacks and the state's abolitionist writers and journalists.

Toni Randolph, '88, is senior correspondent and substitute host with Minnesota Public Radio in the Twin Cities. Randolph was with WBUR-FM in Boston for seven years. "This job will keep me busy," she said. "I'll report sometimes, then fill in as a show host, and also sub as a newscaster. One guy referred to me as the 'utility player.'" Randolph will live in St. Paul

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**Wayne
Dawkins**
Commentary

Tough transition

Kuae Kelch Mattox, '93, gave birth to her third child, Evan Simone, on May 4. That event caused her to miss her 10th anniversary J-school reunion.

Mattox told a classmate in a letter that family changes transformed her profoundly in other ways:

"While journalism had become so embedded in my being, there were three distinct events that changed the course of my career. The first two were my greatest joys, the birth of my [first two children], Teddi and Cole. The third event, and greatest sadness in my life, was the death of my beautiful mother 12 days before Christmas at the age of 60.

"Those events profoundly changed my outlook on life and course I was to take from then on. That fire that burns inside just about every good journalist's belly was no longer there. That passion to push and pursue my craft began to wane.

"What emerged was a burning desire to grow and cultivate my family.

"I never returned to NBC from maternity leave, and I never looked back.

We bought a big, old house with seven bedrooms in Montclair, N.J., just 12 miles outside the city. I became a stay-at-home mom.

"What an eye-opener, what a (Continued on back page)

TOUGH TRANSITION (Continued from front page)

tough transition – from consummate career-minded journalist to stay-at-home mom.

"I will never forget shopping Kmart [that's right, Kmart] with my son, perusing the Martha Stewart aisles, when an employee said to me, 'Oh, that's so nice, you're a stay-at-home mom?'"

"I hesitated, because I wanted to say, 'well, I'm really a journalist, and I used to work for the Miami Herald, I used to work for Oprah, and I spent five years with NBC News. And did you know I have a Masters degree from Columbia J-school?' But I just smiled graciously and said, 'yes.'"

"That's when I knew I was having a tough time, reconciling my past with my present. Mattox has founded a local chapter of Mocha Moms, an organization that supports stay at home moms of color. Last year her chapter grew from eight people to 50, many of them left professional careers to focus on raising children.

Write to Kuae at
kmattox@rocketmail.com

CALENDAR

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Let's do better

Coherent, complete and courageous coverage of race and ethnicity in America is an urgent journalistic duty.

Yet the news media – print and broadcast – often falter.

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- A completed application form
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TELEVISION: VHS-format tapes with transcripts.

NEWSPAPER: Tear sheets, or a reprint and a disk with the entry in Word format.

Story entry **deadline is**

Nov. 17. Winners will be notified

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